

Appl. No.: 09/663,963
Response dated October 28, 2003
Reply to Office action of June 3, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (new): A process for making a polycarboxylic acid, a polyol, or a polyhydroxy acid comprising:

(a) providing an organism capable of producing a polycarboxylic acid, a polyol or a polyhydroxy acid;

(b) providing a substrate capable of being converted into a polycarboxylic acid, a polyol, or a polyhydroxy acid by the organism;

(c) providing a fermentation medium containing:

(i) a source of metabolizable carbon and energy;

(ii) a source of inorganic nitrogen;

(iii) a source of phosphate;

(iv) at least one metal selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal, a transition metal, and mixtures thereof; and

(v) a source of biotin, substantially free of particulate matter and bacteria; and

(d) fermenting the organism and substrate in the fermentation medium to form the polycarboxylic acid, polyol or polyhydroxy acid.

Claim 15 (new): The process of claim 14 wherein the organism is C. tropicalis.

Claim 16 (new): The process of claim 14 wherein the substrate is an alkane having from about 4 to about 25 carbon atoms.

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Claim 17 (new): The process of claim 14 wherein the source of metabolizable carbon and energy is glucose.

Claim 18 (new): The process of claim 14 wherein the source of inorganic nitrogen is selected from the group consisting of urea, ammonium sulfate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 19 (new): The process of claim 14 wherein the source of phosphate is potassium phosphate.

Claim 20 (new): The process of claim 14 wherein the metal is calcium.

Claim 21 (new): The process of claim 14 wherein metal is magnesium.

Claim 22 (new): The process of claim 14 wherein the metal is both calcium and magnesium.

Claim 23 (new): The process of claim 14 wherein the medium further comprises a chelating agent.

Claim 24 (new): The process of claim 14 wherein the medium further comprises an antifoam agent.

Claim 25 (new): The process of claim 14 wherein the medium further comprises at least one trace metal.

Claim 26 (new): The process of claim 14 wherein step (d) is performed at a pH of up

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to about 7.

Claim 27 (new): The process of claim 14 further comprising maintaining dissolved oxygen concentration levels below about 25% during step (d).

Claim 28 (new): The process of claim 14 wherein the source of inorganic nitrogen is selected from the group consisting of ammonia, ammonium hydroxide, and mixtures thereof.